

Application No. 10/036,469

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

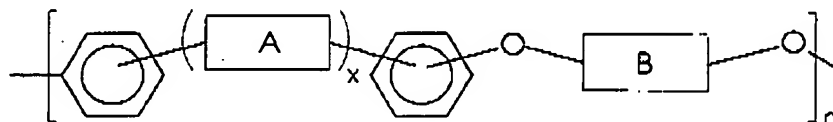
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

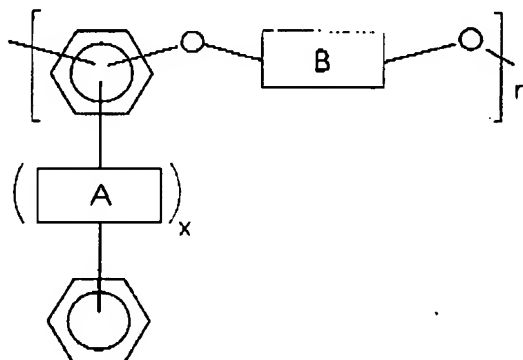
1-15. (Cancelled)

Application No. 10/036,469

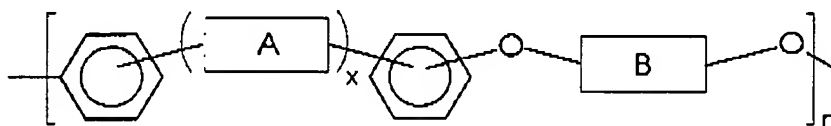
16. (Currently Amended) A composition which comprises a crosslinked or chain extended polymer having a backbone of the formula



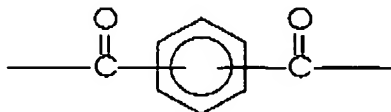
or



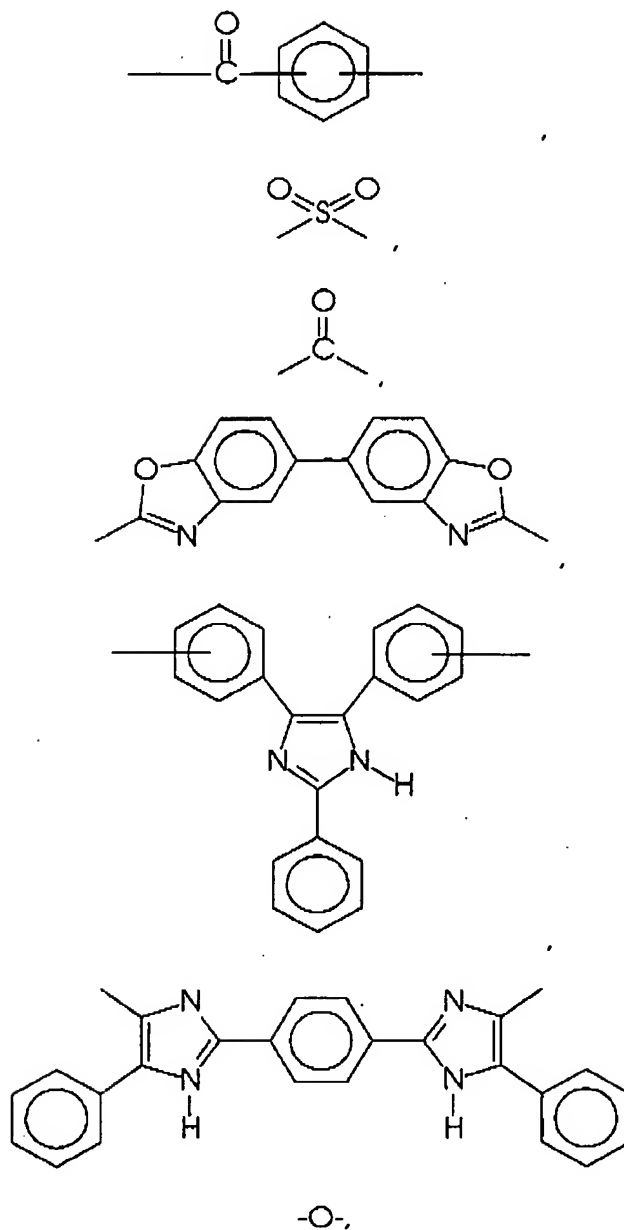
wherein the phenyl groups and the A and B groups can be substituted, wherein x is an integer of 0 or 1 and n is an integer representing the number of repeating monomer units and is ~~at least 2~~ at least 5, wherein, when the polymer backbone is of the formula



either (a) A is

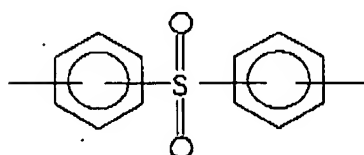
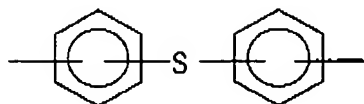
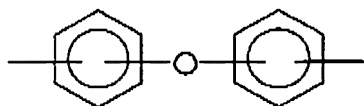
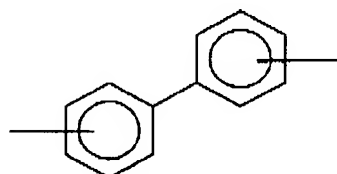
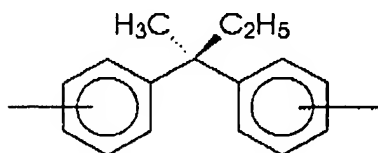
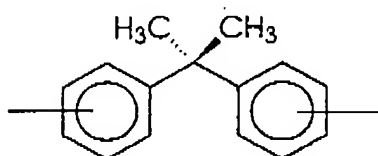
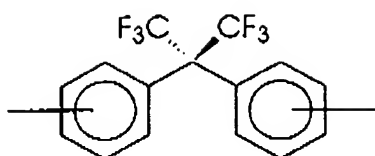


Application No. 10/036,469

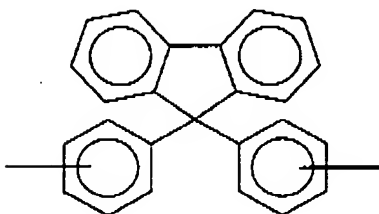
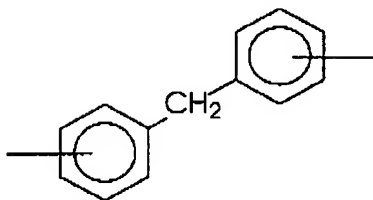
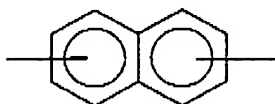
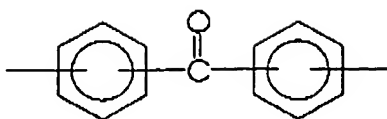


or mixtures thereof, and B is

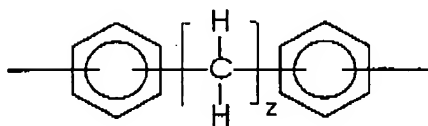
Application No. 10/036,469



Application No. 10/036,469

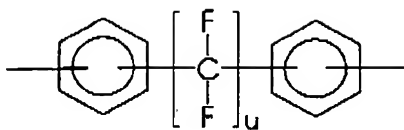


wherein v is an integer of from 1 to about 20,

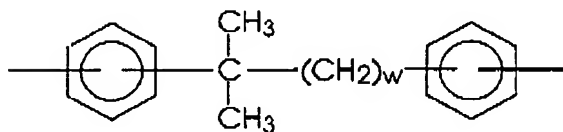
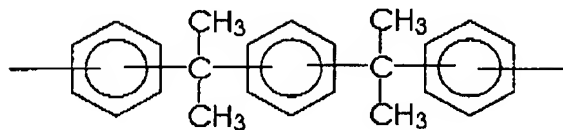
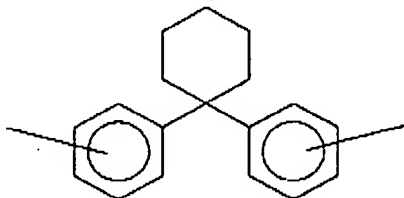
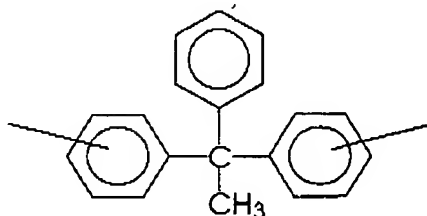


wherein z is an integer of from 2 to about 20,

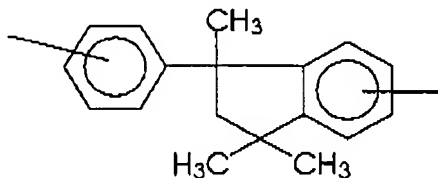
Application No. 10/036,469



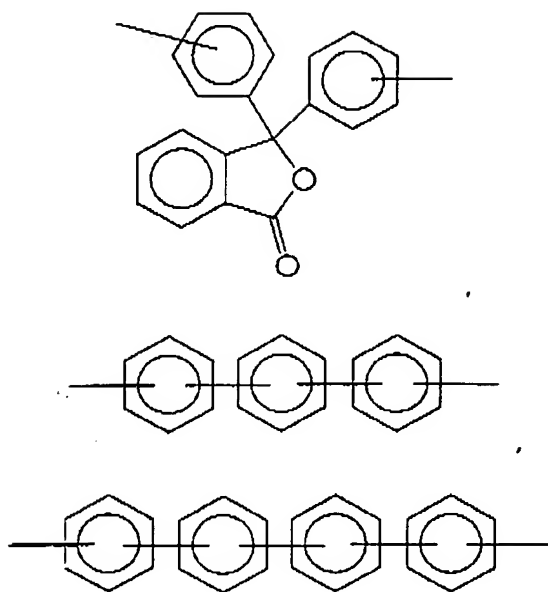
wherein u is an Integer of from 1 to about 20,



wherein w is an integer of from 1 to about 20,



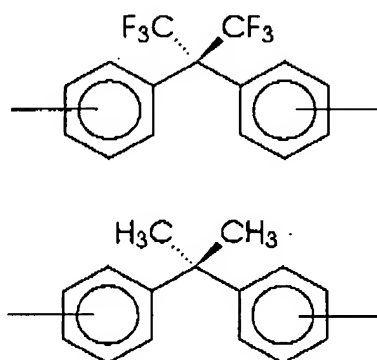
Application No. 10/036,469



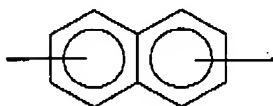
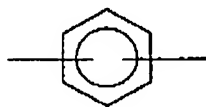
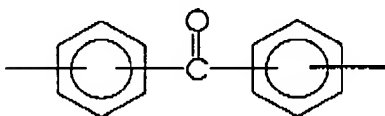
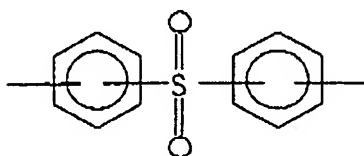
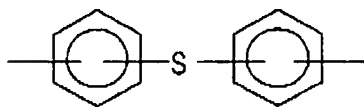
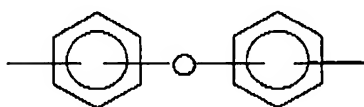
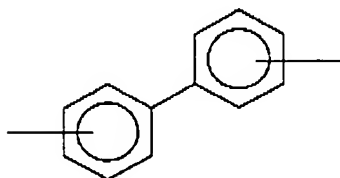
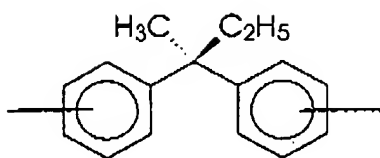
or mixtures thereof, or (b) A is



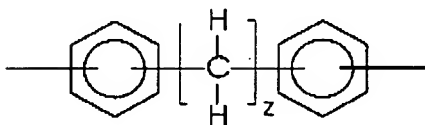
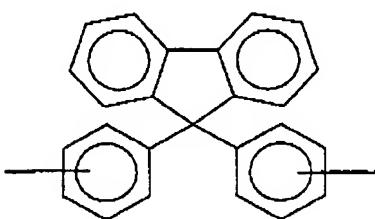
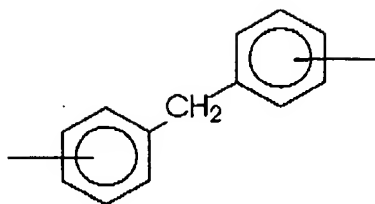
and B is



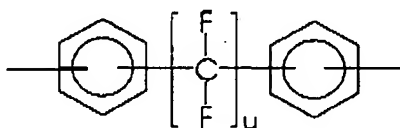
Application No. 10/036,469



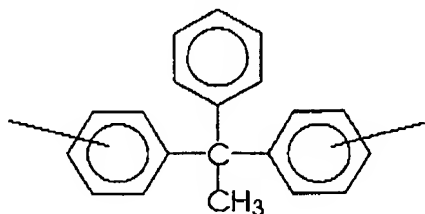
Application No. 10/036,469



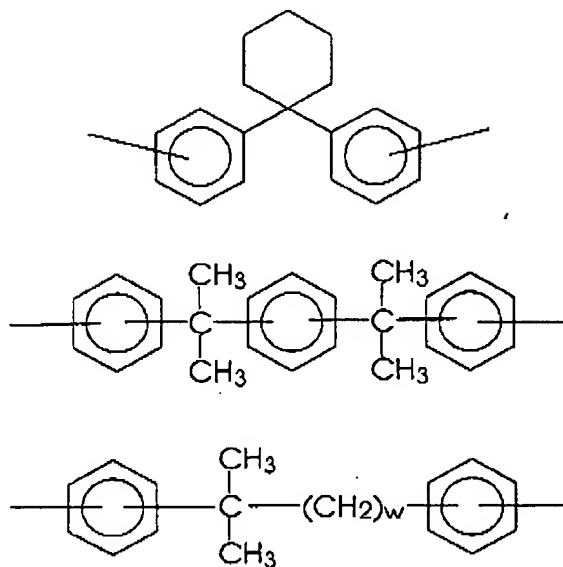
wherein z is an integer of from 2 to about 20,



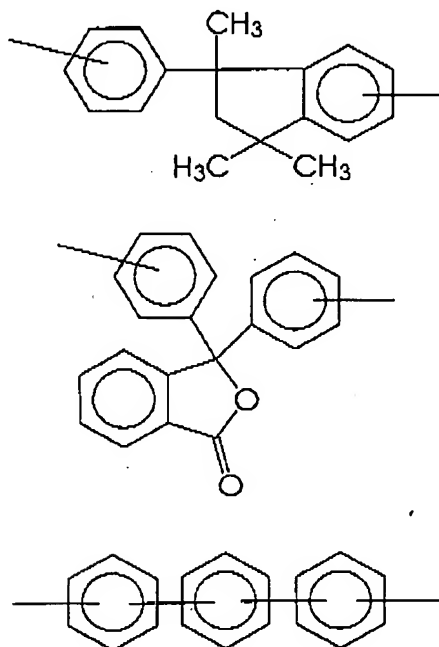
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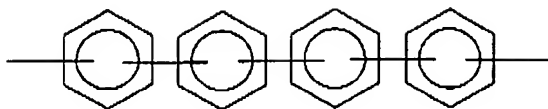
Application No. 10/036,469



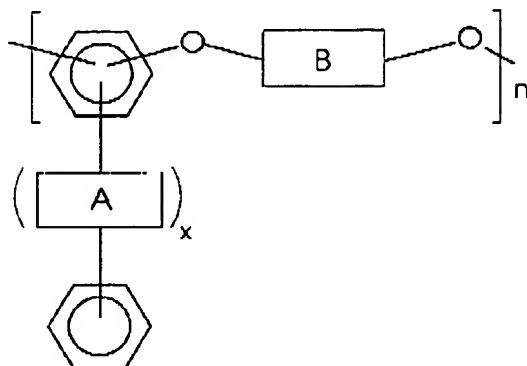
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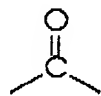
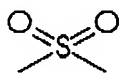
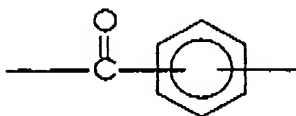
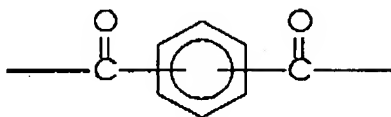
Application No. 10/036,469



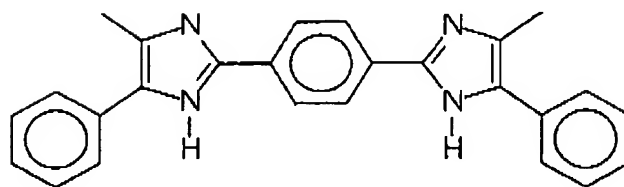
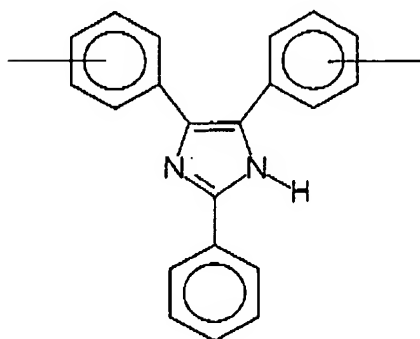
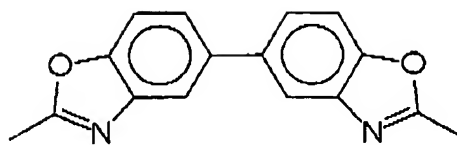
or mixtures thereof, and when the polymer backbone is of the formula



A is



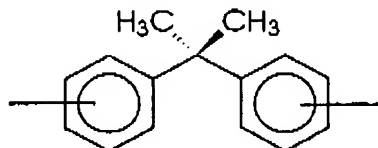
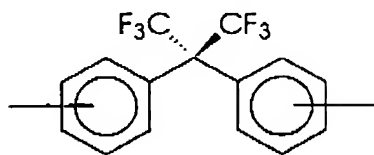
Application No. 10/036,469



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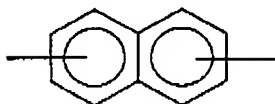
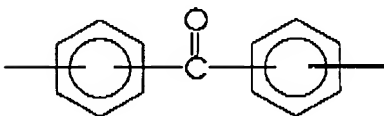
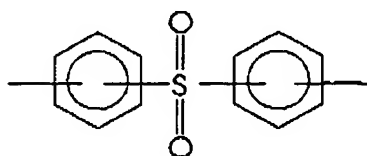
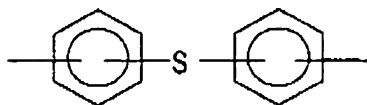
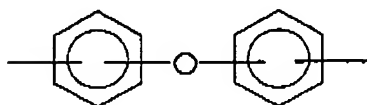
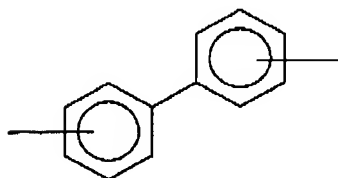
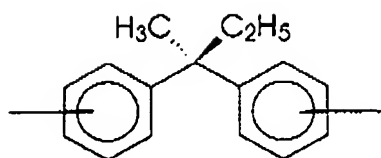
-C(CH₃)₂-

or mixtures thereof, and B is

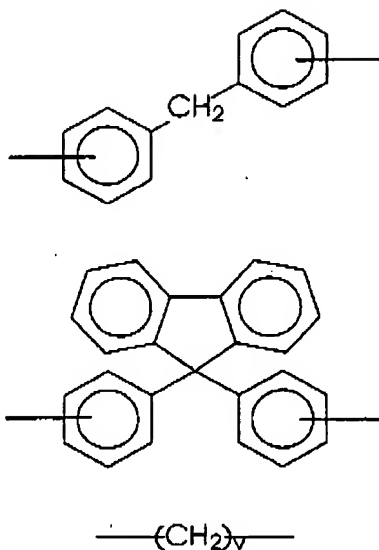


-13-

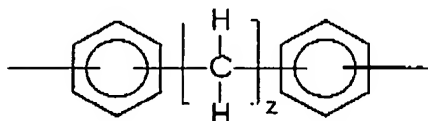
Application No. 10/036,469



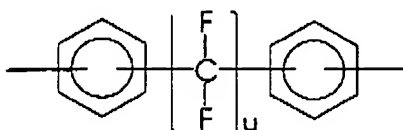
Application No. 10/036,469



wherein v is an integer of from 1 to about 20,



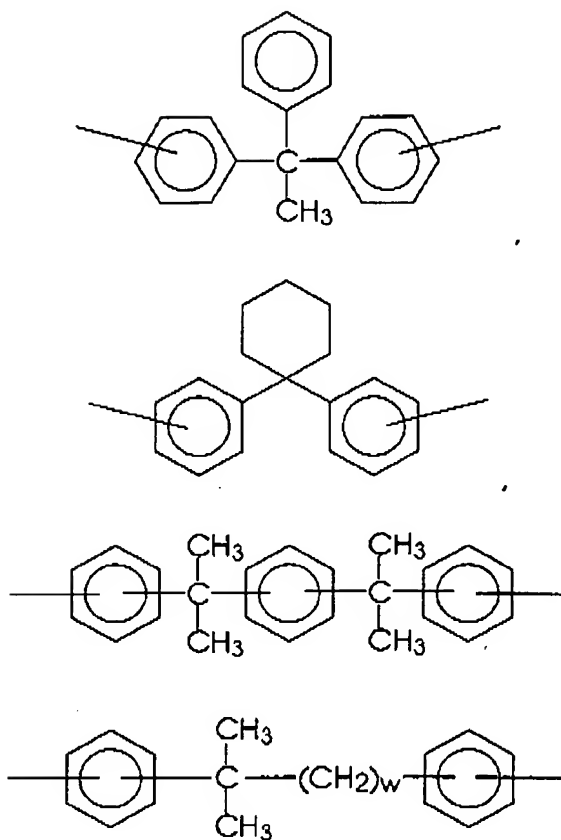
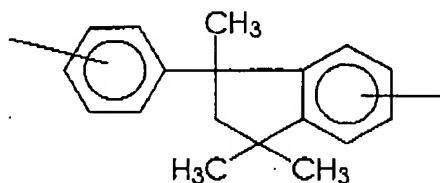
wherein z is an integer of from 2 to about 20,



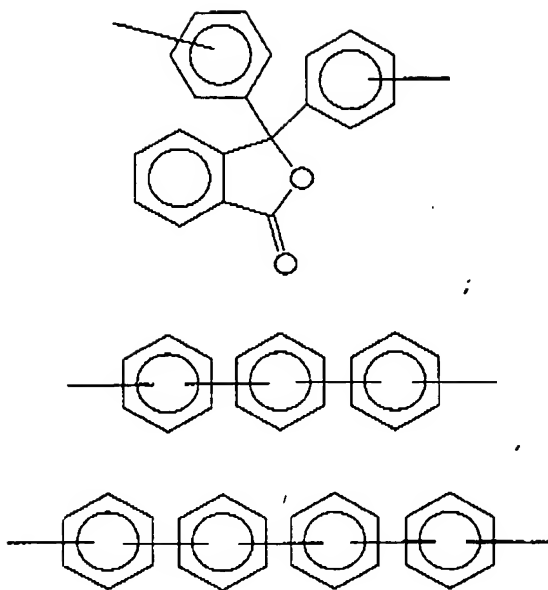
wherein u is an integer of from 1 to about 20,

FIG. 10
continued from
FIG. 9

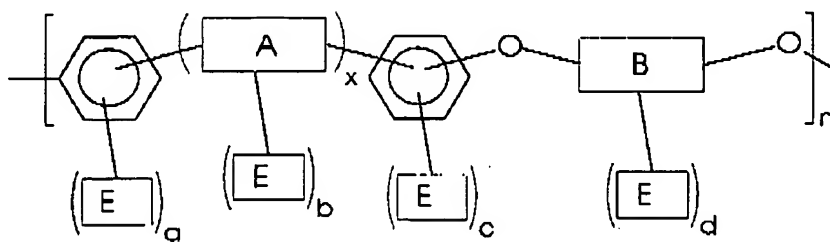
Application No. 10/036,469

wherein w is an integer of from 1 to about 20,

Application No. 10/036,469

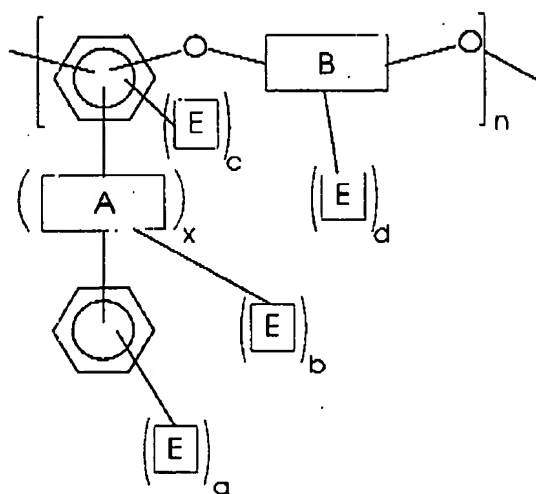


or mixtures thereof, said crosslinked or chain extended polymer having been formed from a precursor polymer having epoxy groups contained on at least some of the monomer repeat units thereof, said precursor polymer being of the formula



or

Application No. 10/036,469



wherein "E" is an epoxy group and a, b, c, and d are each integers of 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4, provided that at least one of a, b, c, and d is equal to or greater than 1 in at least some of the monomer repeat units of the precursor polymer, said crosslinking or chain extension having occurred through linking groups formed by a reaction between the epoxy groups contained on at least some of the monomer repeat units of the precursor polymer and amine groups on an amine curing agent.

Application No. 10/036,469

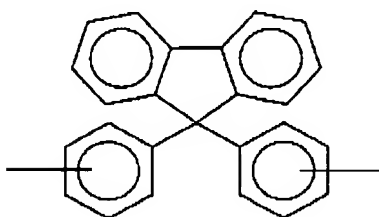
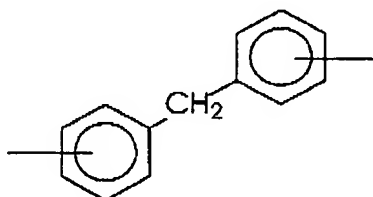
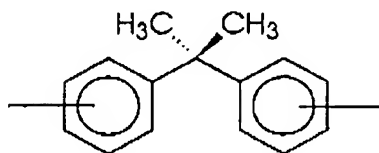
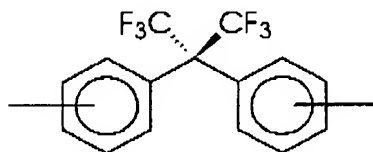
17-32. (Cancelled)

Application No. 10/036,469

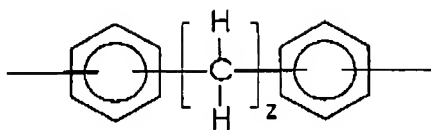
33. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 16 wherein x is 1, A is



and B is



Application No. 10/036,469

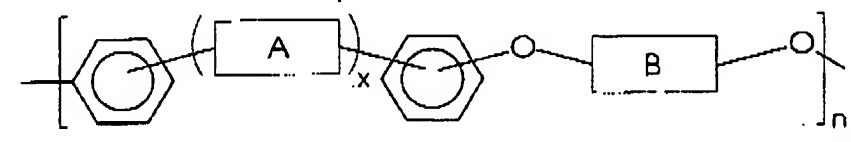


wherein z is an integer of from 2 to about 20, or a mixture thereof.

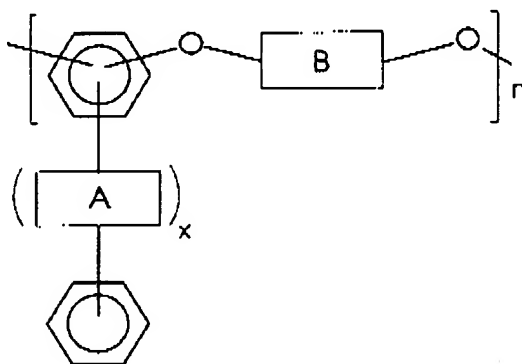
34-43. (Canceled)

Application No. 10/036,469

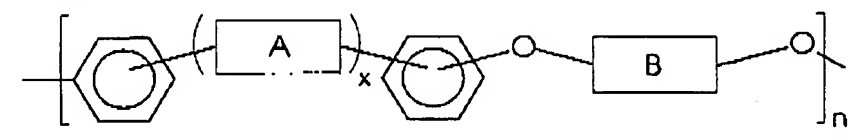
44. (Currently Amended) A composition according to ~~claim 16~~ which comprises a crosslinked or chain extended polymer having a backbone of the formula



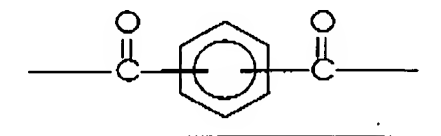
or



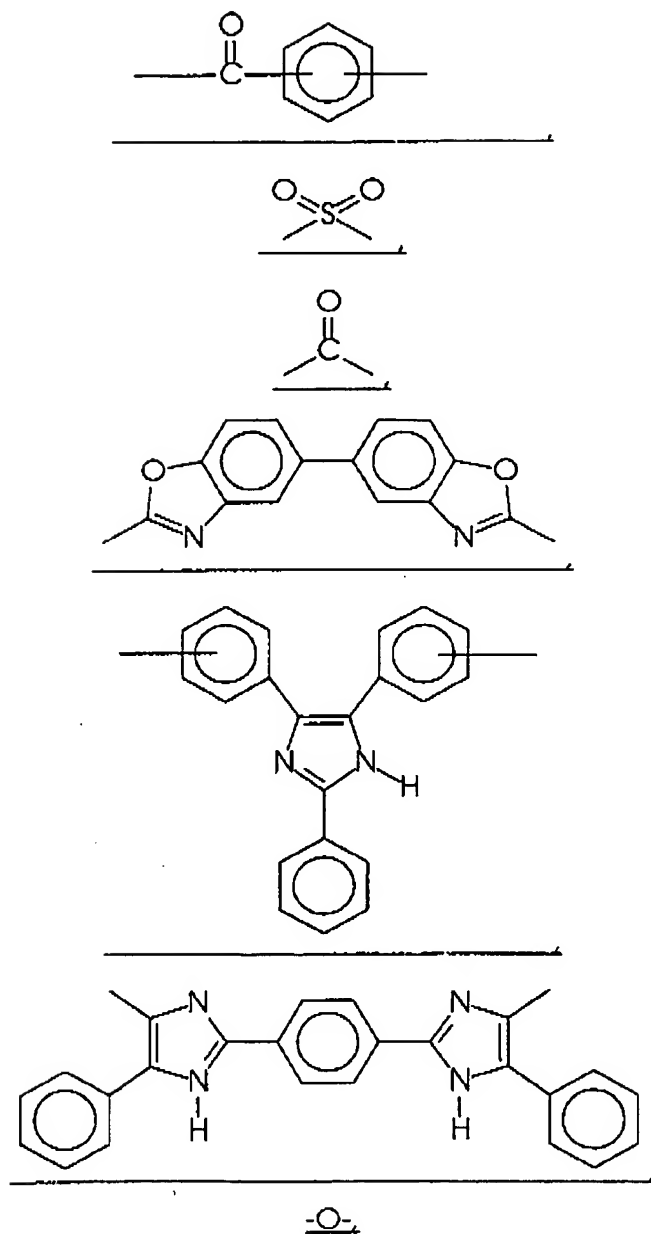
wherein the phenyl groups and the A and B groups can be substituted, wherein x is an integer of 0 or 1 and n is an integer representing the number of repeating monomer units and is at least 2, wherein, when the polymer backbone is of the formula



either (a) A is

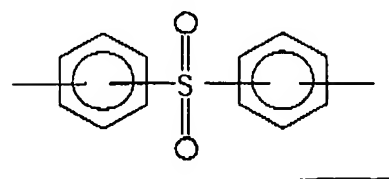
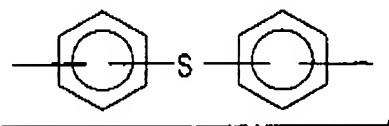
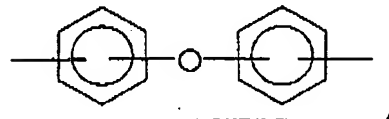
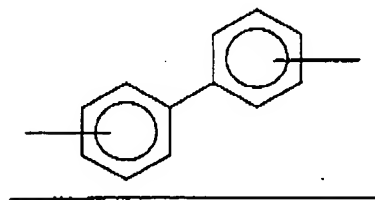
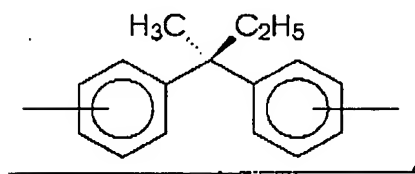
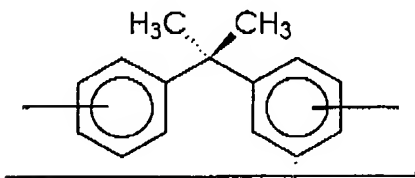
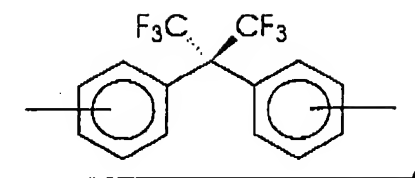


Application No. 10/036,469

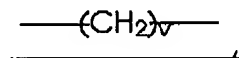
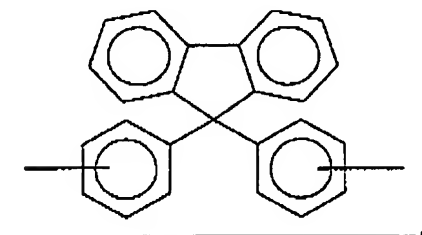
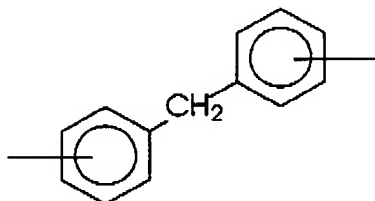
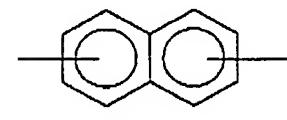
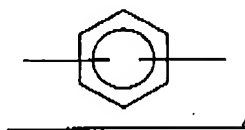
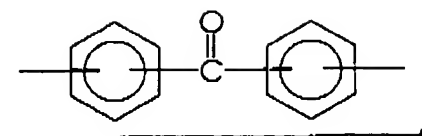


or mixtures thereof, and B is

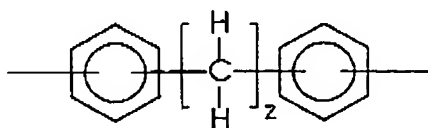
Application No. 10/036,469



Application No. 10/036,469

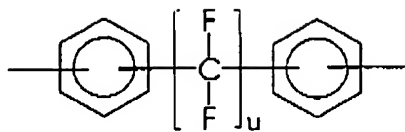


wherein v is an integer of from 1 to about 20.

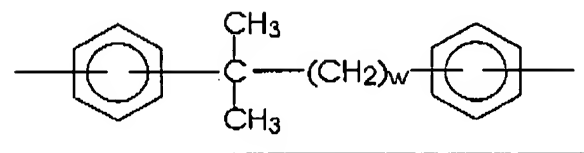
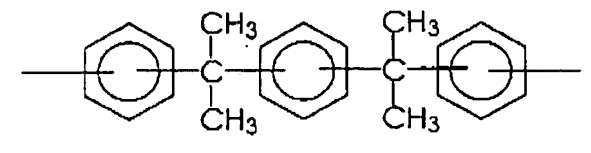
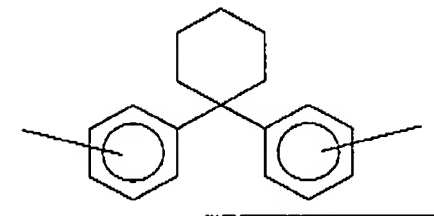
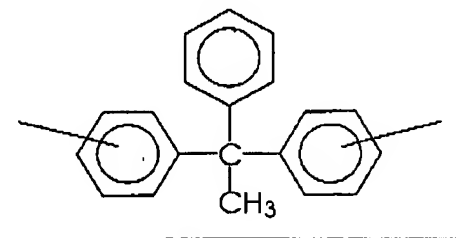


wherein z is an integer of from 2 to about 20.

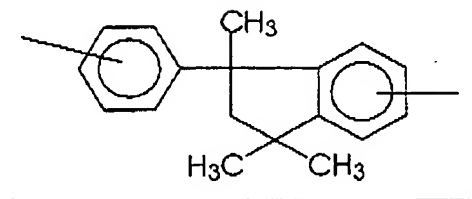
Application No. 10/036,469



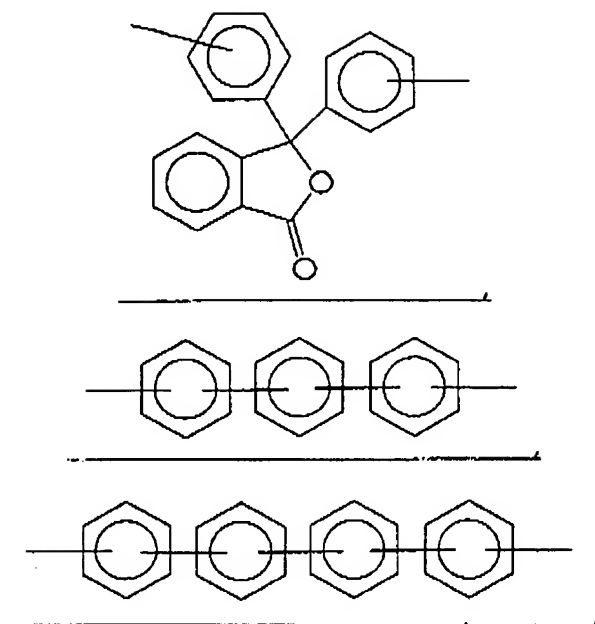
wherein u is an integer of from 1 to about 20.



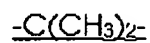
wherein w is an integer of from 1 to about 20.



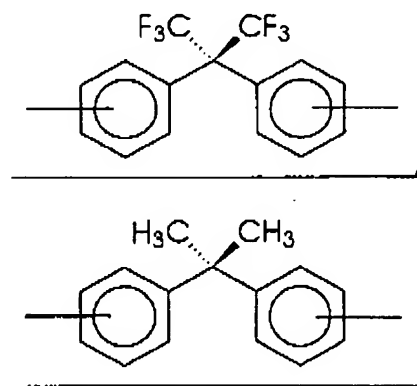
Application No. 10/036,469



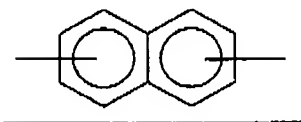
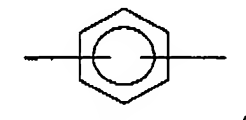
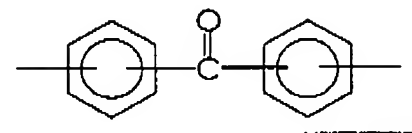
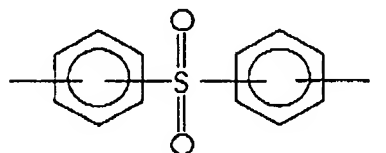
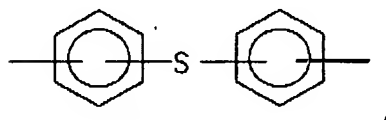
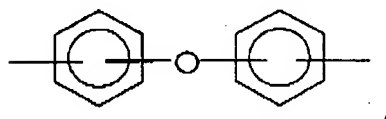
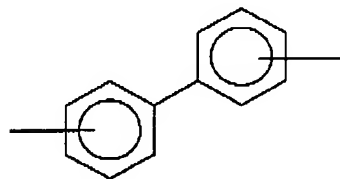
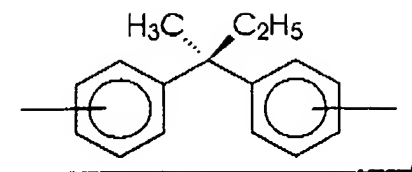
or mixtures thereof, or (b) A is



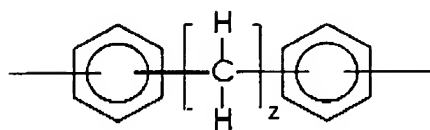
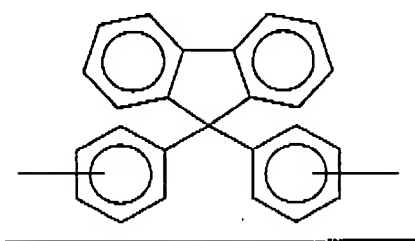
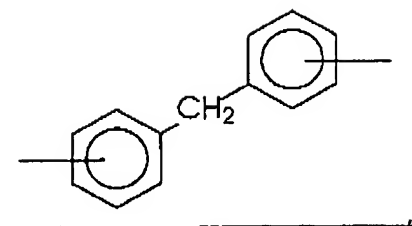
and B is



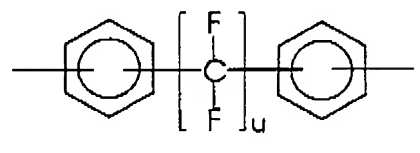
Application No. 10/036,469



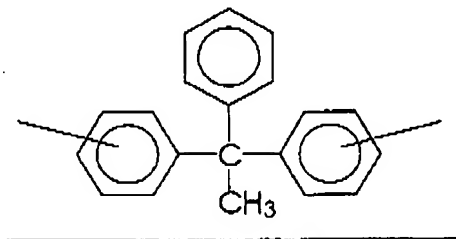
Application No. 10/036,469



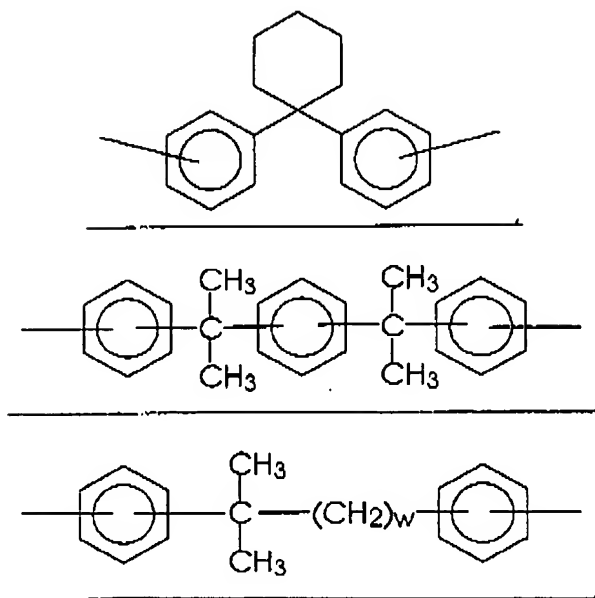
wherein z is an integer of from 2 to about 20.



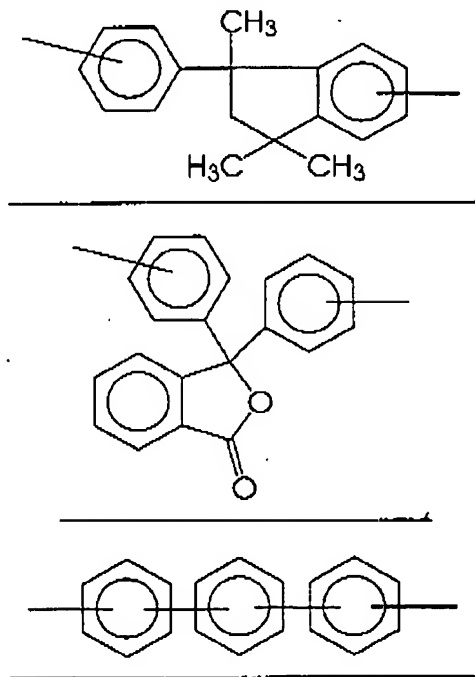
wherein u is an integer of from 1 to about 20.



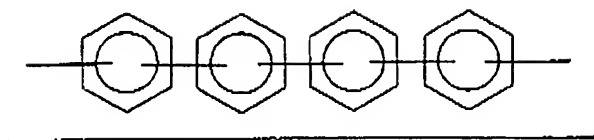
Application No. 10/036,469



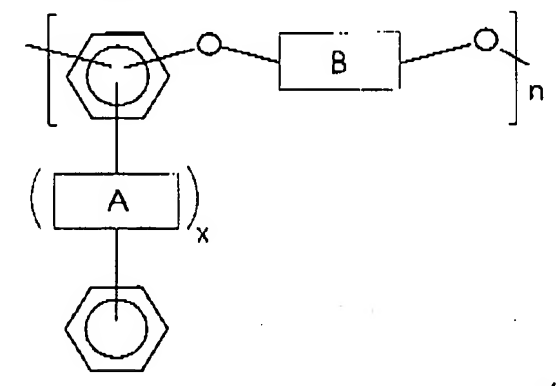
wherein w is an integer of from 1 to about 20.



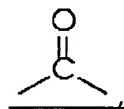
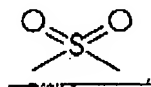
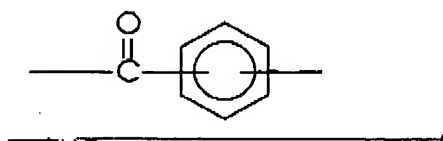
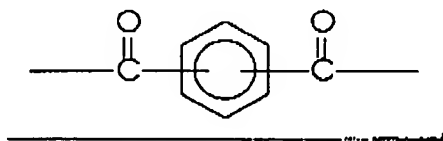
Application No. 10/036,469



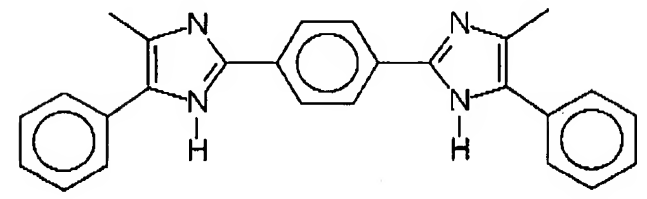
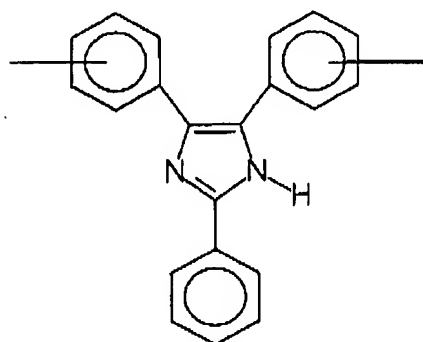
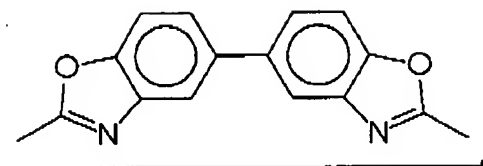
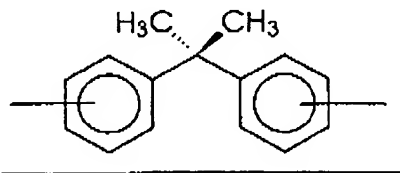
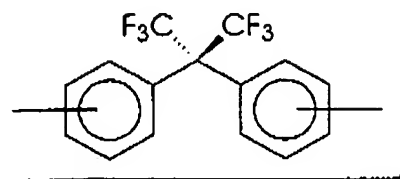
or mixtures thereof, and when the polymer backbone is of the formula



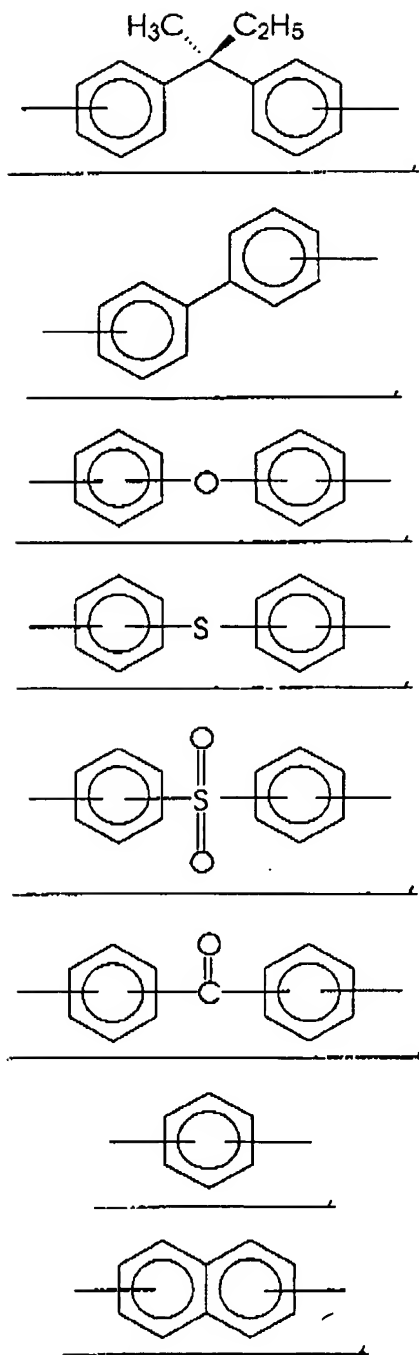
A is



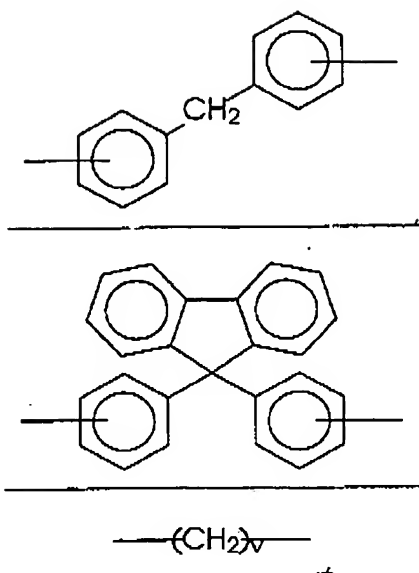
Application No. 10/036,469

-O--C(CH₃)₂-or mixtures thereof, and B is

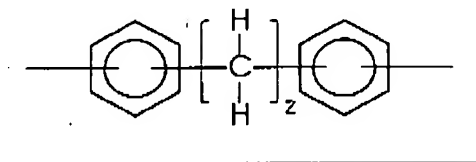
Application No. 10/036,469



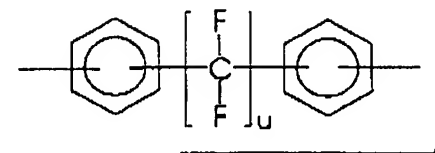
Application No. 10/036,469



wherein v is an integer of from 1 to about 20.

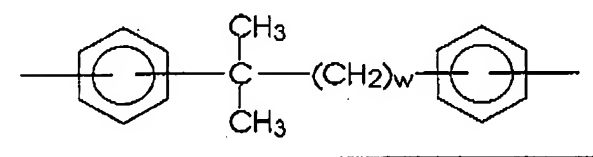
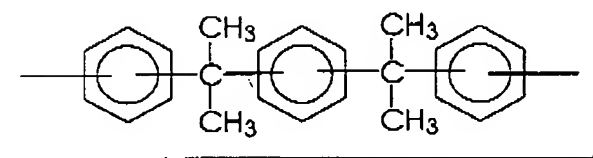
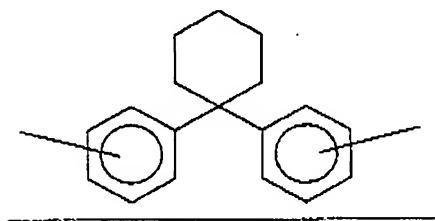
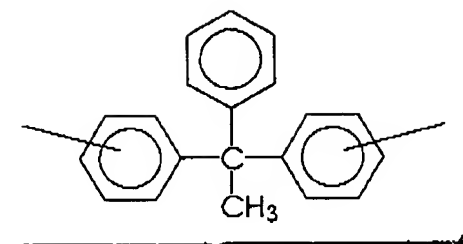


wherein z is an integer of from 2 to about 20.

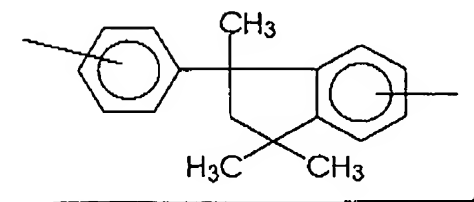


wherein u is an integer of from 1 to about 20.

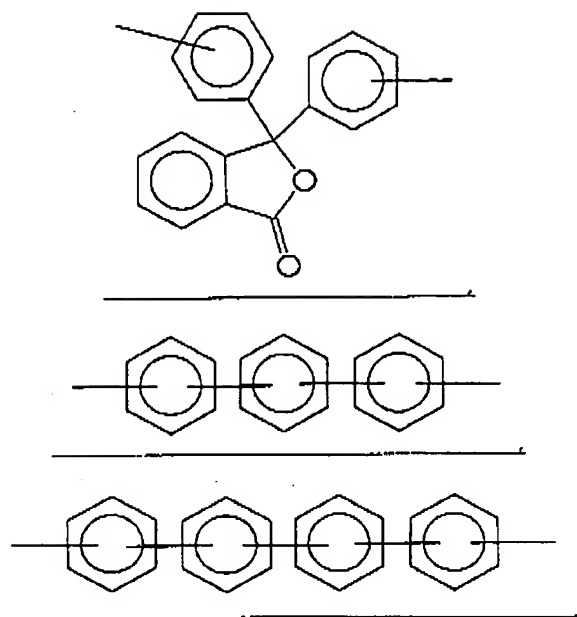
Application No. 10/036,469



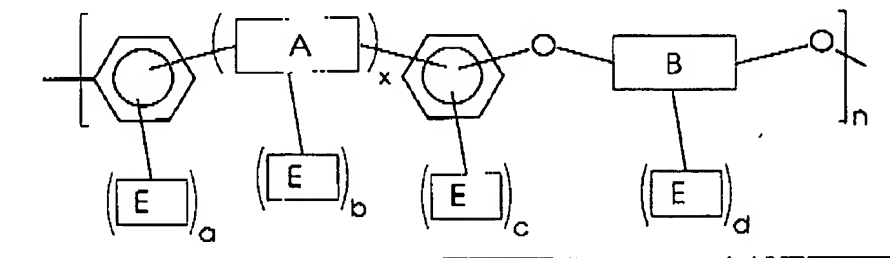
wherein w is an integer of from 1 to about 20.



Application No. 10/036,469

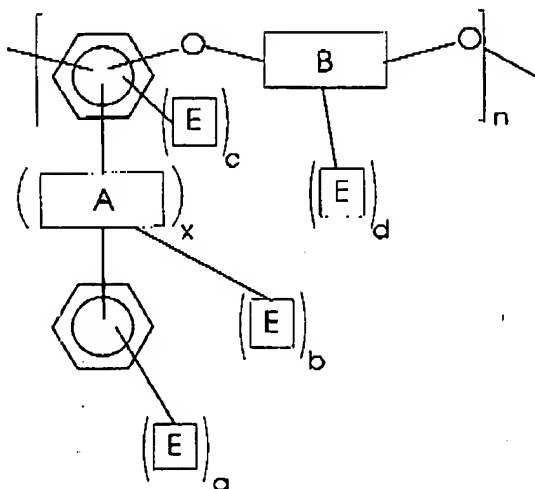


or mixtures thereof, said crosslinked or chain extended polymer having been formed from a precursor polymer having epoxy groups contained on at least some of the monomer repeat units thereof, said precursor polymer being of the formula



or

Application No. 10/036,469



wherein "E" is an epoxy group and a, b, c, and d are each integers of 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4, provided that at least one of a, b, c, and d is equal to or greater than 1 in at least some of the monomer repeat units of the precursor polymer, said crosslinking or chain extension having occurred through linking groups formed by a reaction between the epoxy groups contained on at least some of the monomer repeat units of the precursor polymer and amine groups on an amine curing agent, wherein the polymer has end groups derived from the "A" groups of the polymer.

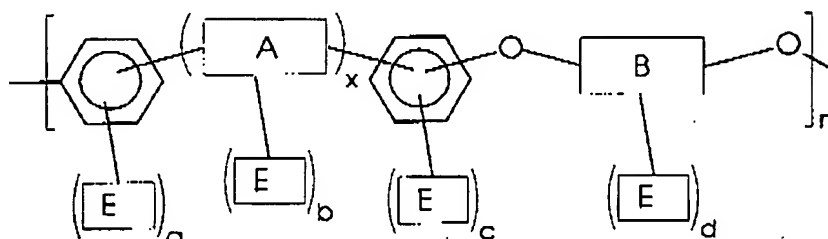
Application No. 10/036,469

45. (Original) A composition according to claim 16 wherein the polymer has end groups derived from the "B" groups of the polymer.

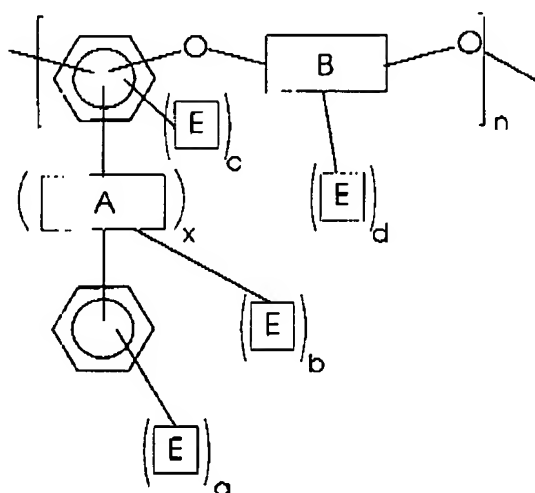
46-56. (Cancelled)

Application No. 10/036,469

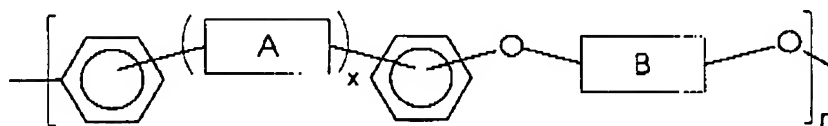
57. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 16 wherein the precursor polymer of the formula



or

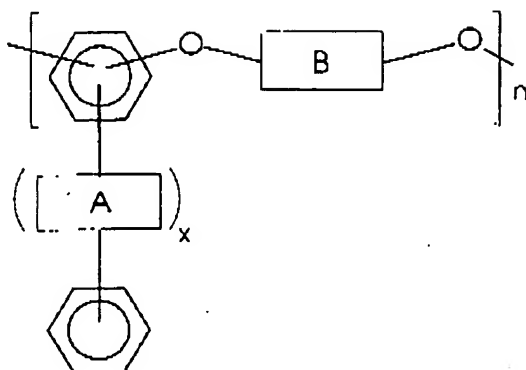


is prepared by substituting a preprecursor polymer of the formula



or

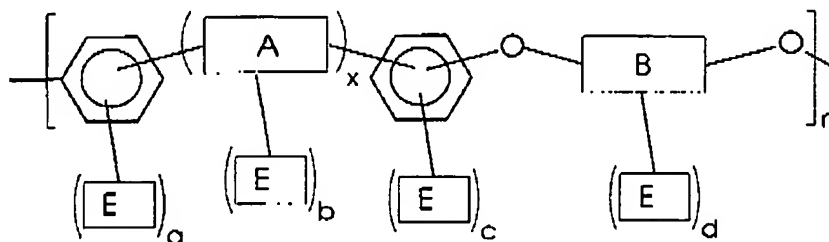
Application No. 10/036,469



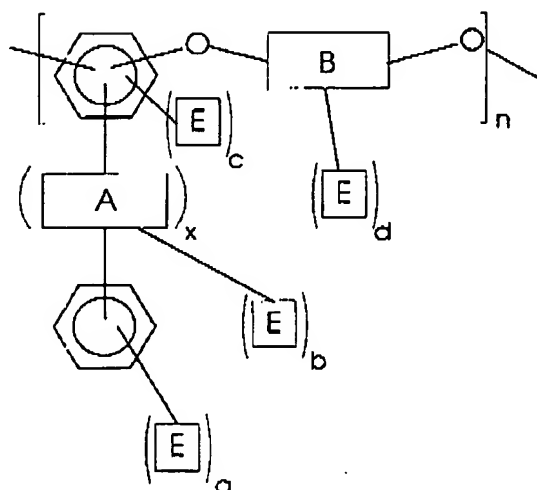
with epoxy groups, and wherein the value of n is such that the weight average molecular weight of the prepolymer prior to crosslinking or chain extension is from about 1,000 to about 100,000.

Application No. 10/036,469

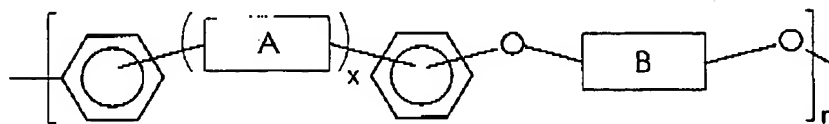
58. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 16 wherein the precursor polymer of the formula



or

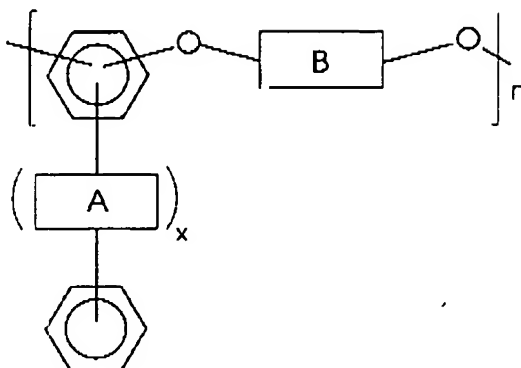


is prepared by substituting a preprecursor polymer of the formula



or

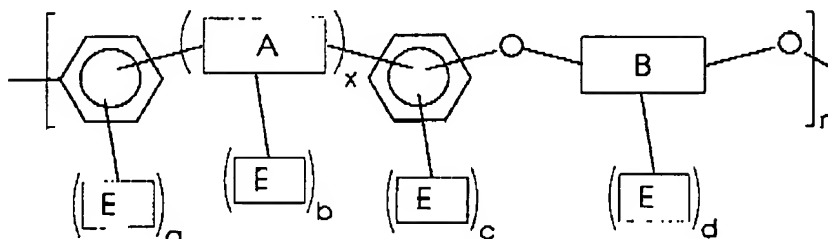
Application No. 10/036,469



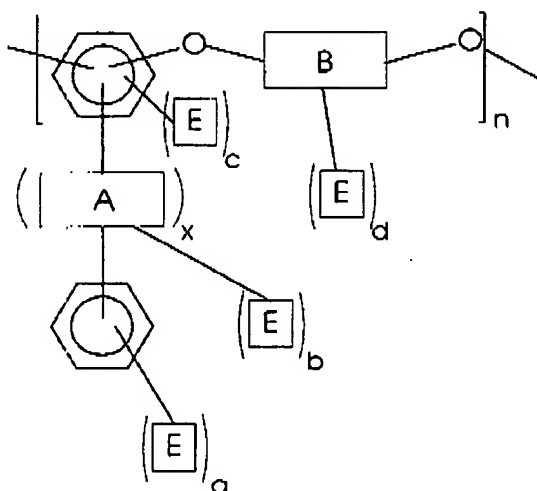
with epoxy groups, and wherein the value of n is such that the weight average molecular weight of the preprecursor polymer prior to crosslinking or chain extension is from about 1,000 to about 65,000.

Application No. 10/036,469

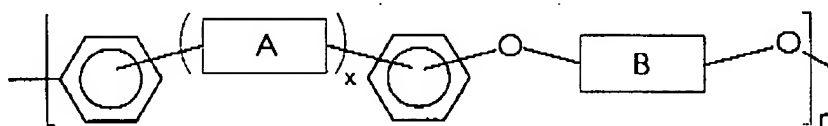
59. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 16 wherein the precursor polymer of the formula



or

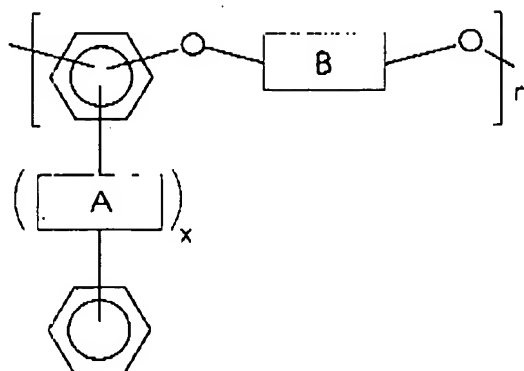


is prepared by substituting a preprecursor polymer of the formula



or

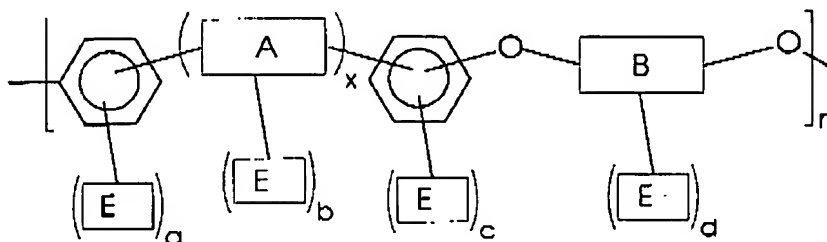
Application No. 10/036,469



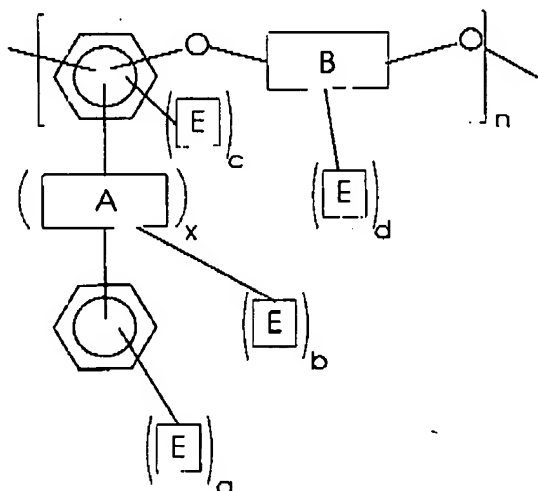
with epoxy groups, and wherein the value of n is such that the weight average molecular weight of the preprecursor polymer prior to crosslinking or chain extension is from about 1,000 to about 40,000.

Application No. 10/036,469

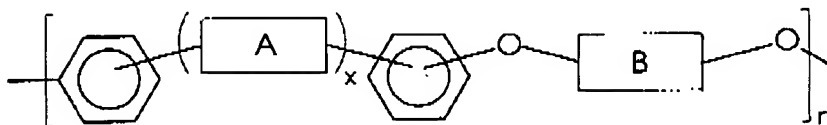
60. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 16 wherein the precursor polymer of the formula



or

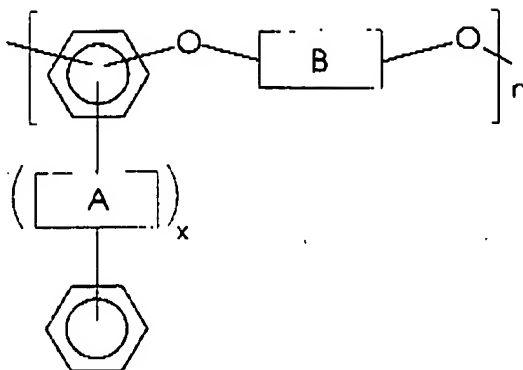


is prepared by substituting a preprecursor polymer of the formula



or

Application No. 10/036,469



with epoxy groups, and wherein the value of n is such that the weight average molecular weight of the preprecursor polymer prior to crosslinking or chain extension is from about 3,000 to about 25,000.

Application No. 10/036,469

61. (Cancelled)

62. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 16 wherein n is an integer of from about 5 to about 70.

63. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 16 wherein n is an integer of from about 8 to about 50.

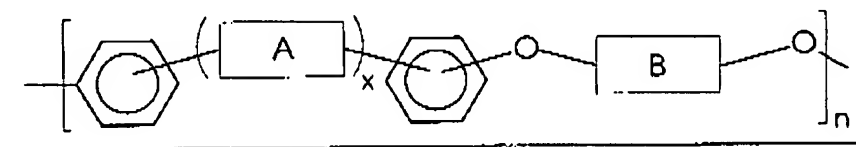
64. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 16 wherein the precursor polymer has a degree of substitution of on average from about 0.5 to about 2 epoxy groups per monomer repeat unit.

65. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 16 wherein the precursor polymer has a degree of substitution of on average from about 0.5 to about 1.5 epoxy groups per monomer repeat unit.

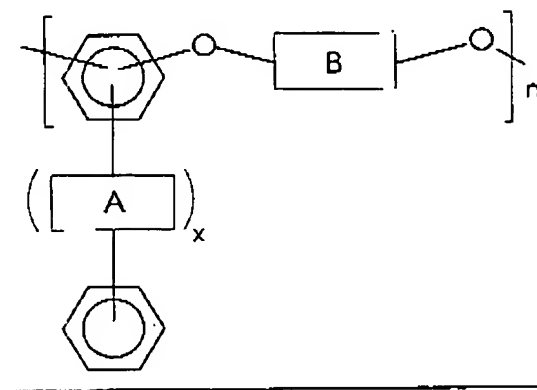
66. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 16 wherein the precursor polymer has a degree of substitution of from about 0.8 to about 1.3 milliequivalents of epoxy groups per gram of precursor polymer.

Application No. 10/036,469

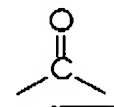
67. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 33 which comprises a crosslinked or chain extended polymer having a backbone of the formula



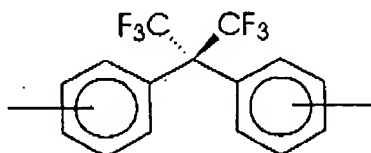
or



wherein the phenyl groups and the A and B groups can be substituted, wherein x is an integer of 0 or 1 and n is an integer representing the number of repeating monomer units and is at least 2, wherein x is 1, A is

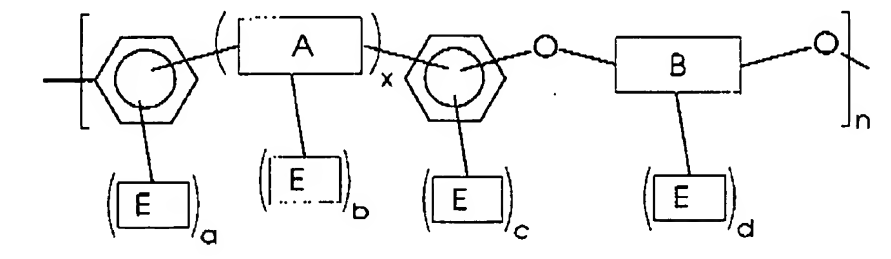


wherein and B is

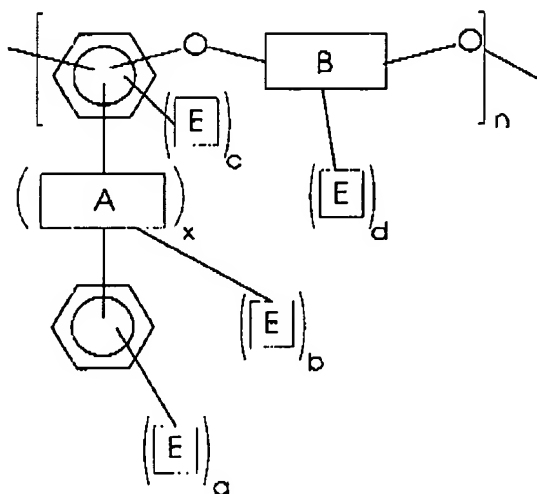


Application No. 10/036,469

said crosslinked or chain extended polymer having been formed from a precursor polymer having epoxy groups contained on at least some of the monomer repeat units thereof, said precursor polymer being of the formula



or



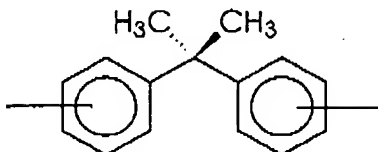
wherein "E" is an epoxy group and a, b, c, and d are each integers of 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4, provided that at least one of a, b, c, and d is equal to or greater than 1 in at least some of the monomer repeat units of the precursor polymer, said crosslinking or chain extension having occurred through linking groups formed by a reaction between the epoxy groups

Application No. 10/036,469

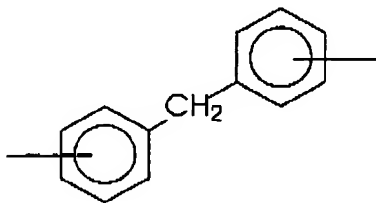
contained on at least some of the monomer repeat units of the precursor
polymer and amine groups on an amine curing agent.

Application No. 10/036,469

68. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 33 wherein B is

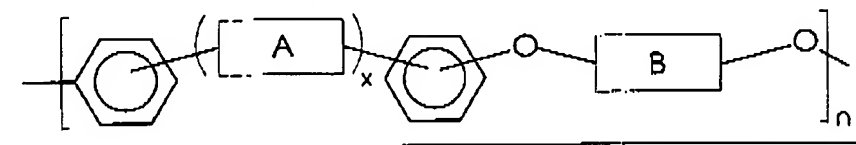


69. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 33 wherein B is

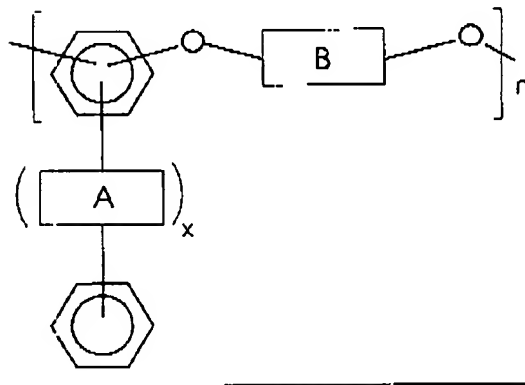


Application No. 10/036,469

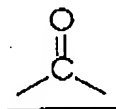
70. (Currently Amended) A composition according to ~~claim 33~~ which comprises a crosslinked or chain extended polymer having a backbone of the formula



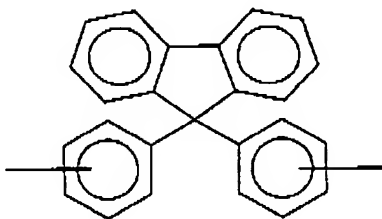
or



wherein the phenyl groups and the A and B groups can be substituted, wherein x is an integer of 0 or 1 and n is an integer representing the number of repeating monomer units and is at least 2, wherein x is 1, A is

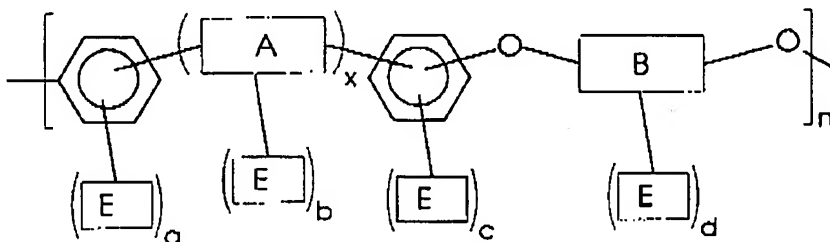


wherein and B is

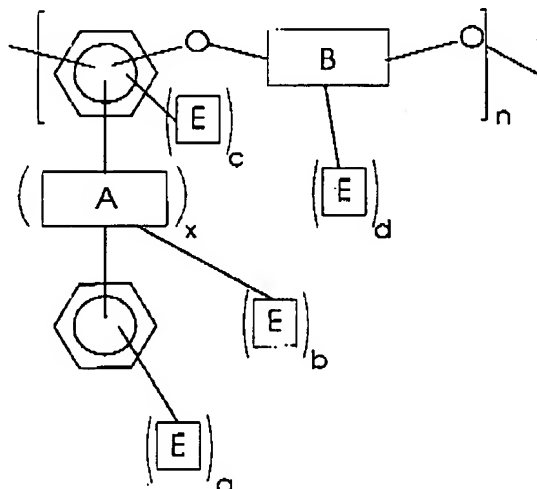


Application No. 10/036,469

said crosslinked or chain extended polymer having been formed from a precursor polymer having epoxy groups contained on at least some of the monomer repeat units thereof, said precursor polymer being of the formula



or

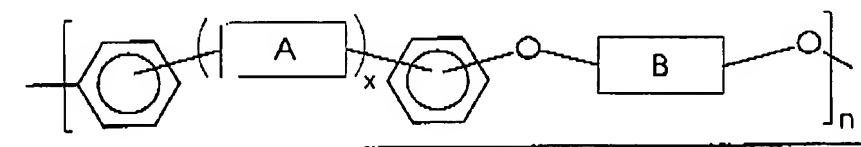


Application No. 10/036,469

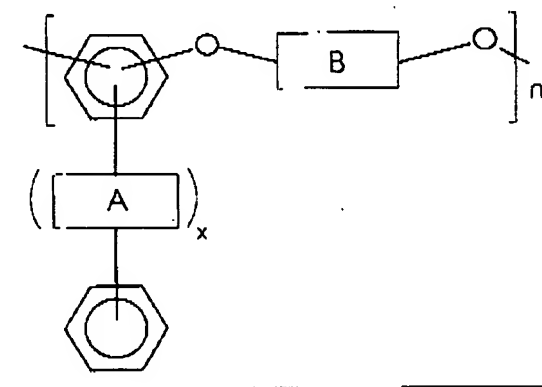
wherein "E" is an epoxy group and a, b, c, and d are each integers of 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4, provided that at least one of a, b, c, and d is equal to or greater than 1 in at least some of the monomer repeat units of the precursor polymer, said crosslinking or chain extension having occurred through linking groups formed by a reaction between the epoxy groups contained on at least some of the monomer repeat units of the precursor polymer and amine groups on an amine curing agent.

Application No. 10/036,469

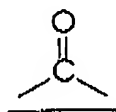
71. (Currently Amended) A composition according to ~~claim 33~~ which comprises a crosslinked or chain extended polymer having a backbone of the formula



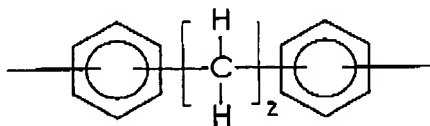
or



wherein the phenyl groups and the A and B groups can be substituted, wherein x is an integer of 0 or 1 and n is an integer representing the number of repeating monomer units and is at least 2, wherein x is 1, A is



wherein ~~and~~ B is



Application No. 10/036,469

wherein z is an integer of from 2 to about 20, wherein "E" is an epoxy group and a, b, c, and d are each integers of 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4, provided that at least one of a, b, c, and d is equal to or greater than 1 in at least some of the monomer repeat units of the precursor polymer, said crosslinking or chain extension having occurred through linking groups formed by a reaction between the epoxy groups contained on at least some of the monomer repeat units of the precursor polymer and amine groups on an amine curing agent.